



**Board of Directors Meeting
October 10/25 @ 9:00 AM
Holiday Inn Express
Ottawa Airport**

Present:

Scott Neiles, President

Directors:

Brooks Penrod

Bob Stanton

Jackie Dugger

Kareena Zanolli

Neil Teague

Vanessa Kosteroski

Robb Andison

Larissa Franklin (Athlete Rep)

Staff:

Mike Branchaud, CEO

Brooke Beleza, Coordinator – Events &

Angela Ballantyne, Mgr. - Sport

Officials

Development

Gabrielle Lamadeleine - Intern

Gilles LeBlanc, Mgr. – Operations

1. Call to order, Land Acknowledgement and President's opening remarks

- President Neiles opened the meeting at 9:00am EST

2. Acceptance of the June 18th Meeting Minutes

MOTION #1 - Move to accept the minutes of June 18th, 2025 Board Meeting

***Moved by Penrod, seconded by Teague,
CARRIED***

3. Approval of the Agenda with power to add

MOTION #2 – Move that the agenda with the additions be approved, with the powers to add.

***Moved by Penrod, seconded by Teague,
CARRIED***

4. Ontario Membership fee

MOTION #3 – To move in camera

***Moved by Franklin, seconded by
Kosteroski, CARRIED***

MOTION #4 – To move out of camera

***Moved by Stanton, seconded by
Dugger, CARRIED***

5. Women's National Team

5.1 OTP

A meeting with Own the Podium (OTP) is scheduled for October 22, 2025, to review Softball Canada's 2026 funding submission. The submission is currently under development and review by Kaleigh, Mel Davidson (OTP consultant), and Angela.

The document outlines 2025 performance outcomes, key challenges and areas of focus, athlete and program projections, continued high-performance development initiatives, and strategic objectives for 2026. It also includes a budget with the anticipation of increased OTP contributions heading into year 2 of the quad.

5.2 WNT 2026 Plans

In 2026, the program's focus will remain on refining top athletes, broadening and evaluating the talent pool under competitive pressure, and advancing team tactics through exposure to high-caliber international competition. Building upon the foundation established in 2025, the emphasis for 2026 is on raising the overall performance standard — creating more intense and competitive training environments, conducting deeper

athlete assessments, and pursuing strategically selected international matchups to further develop and test the team's readiness at the highest level.

The following events are planned for 2026 (in addition to team training events):

- Stage 1 Qualifier (TBD –November announcement)
 - Czechia - June 16-20
 - Peru - July 21-25
 - USA - September 17-21
- Japan Exhibition Series: June 23- July 3
- Canada Cup: July 6-12
 - Including Elite Team
- USA Invitational: July 28- August 3
 - Top 6 teams
 - Pan American Competition

5.3 Women's National Team

In 2025 Canada's female programs were highly active and successful across levels with all three age groups participating. The WNT won the XI Pan American Championship (securing a World Cup group stage berth), placed 2nd at Canada Cup, and placed 4th at the World Games. The U-18 program competed at the WBSC U-18 Women's World Cup and finished strong in the placement round, and the newly formed U-15 program made international strides — going undefeated in the Placement Round at the WBSC U-15 World Cup.

WBSC Pan American Championship

- Canada completed the opening round of the Pan Ams undefeated (including an 8–0 shutout of Peru) and navigated the Super Round with a mix of wins and close losses (e.g., split day with a 4–1 win vs. Cuba and a narrow 2–1 loss to Venezuela).
- Canada captured the XI Pan American title with a 6–0 win over Puerto Rico. That victory also secured a berth in the Women's Softball World Cup group stage.

Canada Cup 2025

- Canada finished first in their pool during round robin play at the 2025 Canada Cup (4–1 record).

- In the gold medal game, Canada staged a stirring rally from a 6–0 deficit in the bottom of the 5th to narrow the gap but ultimately lost 7–5 to Triple Crown Colorado.

The World Games 2025 (Chengdu, China)

- Canada finished in 4th place at The World Games.
- Their path included a semifinal loss (6–4) to Chinese Taipei and then an 11–1 loss to Japan in the bronze medal game.
- In group play, Canada opened with an 11–9 win vs. Puerto Rico, followed by a 9–0 win over Australia, and later defeated Japan 2–1 to top their group.

Date	Event / Stage	Opponent	Score	Result
2025-06-27 —	XI Pan American Championship	Colombia	14 – 1	Win
2025-06-27	XI Pan American Championship	Chile	14-0	Win
2025-06-28	XI Pan American Championship	Argentina	7-0	Win
2025-06-29	XI Pan American Championship	Peru	8-0	Win
2025-06-30	XI Pan American Championship	Mexico	3-1	Loss
2025-07-01	XI Pan American Championship	Brazil	10-0	Win
2025-07-02	XI Pan American Championship	Cuba	4-1	Win
2025-07-03	XI Pan American Championship	Venezuela	2-1	Loss
2025-07-04	XI Pan American Championship — Gold medal game	Puerto Rico	6 – 0	Gold / Win
2025-07-07	Canada Cup	SoCal Sting	2-0	Win
2025-07-08	Canada Cup	New Zealand	8-1	Win

2025-07-09	Canada Cup	Ukraine	15-0	Win
2025-07-09	Canada Cup	Czechia	1-0	Win
2025-07-10	Canada Cup	Team BC	8-1	Win
2025-07-10	Canada Cup	SoCal Sting	11-0	Win
2025-07-11	Canada Cup — Playoffs	Triple Crown Colorado	7 – 3	Win (playoff opener)
2025-07-12	Canada Cup — Playoffs	Netherlands	6-1	Win
2025-07-13	Canada Cup — Gold medal game	Triple Crown Colorado	5 – 7	Loss — Silver
2025-08-13	The World Games — Group stage	Puerto Rico	11 – 9	Win
2025-08-14	The World Games — Group stage	Australia	9 – 0	Win
2025-08-15	The World Games — Group stage	Japan	2 – 1	Win (finished 1st in Group B)
2025-08-16	The World Games — Semifinal	Chinese Taipei (TPE)	4 – 6	Loss (semifinal)
2025-08-17	The World Games — Bronze medal game	Japan	1 – 11	Loss — 4th place

5.4 U-18 Women's National Team

WBSC U-18 Women's Softball World Cup Finals

Canada competed through pool play and the placement round, finishing the tournament in 5th place after a convincing 12–1 win over Czechia in the placement round finale (Oct 1, 2025). The team also notched a narrow 4–3 placement-round victory over Puerto Rico earlier in the placement bracket.

Date	Event / Stage	Opponent	Score	Result
2025-09-27	WBSC U-18 World Cup	Chinese Taipei	9-2	Loss

2025-09-28	WBSC U-18 World Cup	China	10-0	Loss
2025-09-28	WBSC U-18 World Cup	USA	11-1	Loss
2025-09-29	WBSC U-18 World Cup —Placement round	Puerto Rico	4 – 3	Win
2025-10-01	WBSC U-18 World Cup — Placement round	Czechia	12 – 2	Win

5.5 U-15 Women’s National Team

WBSC U-15 Women’s Softball World Cup

- At the WBSC U-15 Women’s Softball World Cup (2025) Team Canada finished the Placement Round undefeated, closing that stage with a 6–3 victory over Spain. The team finished in 7th place.
- Earlier in 2025 the U-15 squad had competed at the Pan American Championship, finishing 4th.

Date	Event / Stage	Opponent	Score	Result
2025-06-27	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Pool play	Czechia	3-2	Loss
2025-06-28	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Pool play	Singapore	8 – 3	Win
2025-06-28	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Pool play	USA	8-0	Loss
2025-06-29	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Pool play	Chinese Taipei	4-3	Loss
2025-06-30	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Pool play	Australia	7-0	Win
2025-07-03	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Placement round	American Samoa	7-0	Win
2025-07-02	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Placement round	Italy	9 – 0	Win

2025-07-04	WBSC U-15 World Cup — Placement round	Spain	6 – 3	Win
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MOTION #5 – Move to approve the Women’s National Team report

Moved by Stanton, seconded by Teague, CARRIED

6) Safe Sport/Complaints

The role of Softball Canada regarding Safe Sport matters will be discussed at this Board of Directors meeting.

MOTION #6 – To move in camera

Moved by Andison, seconded by Zanolli, CARRIED

MOTION #7 – To move out of camera

Moved by Kosteroski, seconded by Penrod, CARRIED

MOTION #8 – Move to accept the Safe Sport Report

Moved by Teague, seconded by Zanolli, CARRIED

7. Coaching

7.1 Resource Fees

Foundations of Coaching Softball

The *Foundations of Coaching Softball (FOCS)* program, delivered through the Coaching Association of Canada’s (CAC) e-learning platform, continues to be a key entry point for coaches beginning their Softball Canada certification pathway.

To better align with the value of the content and to reflect budgetary cuts and review and development costs, we will be implementing the following fee adjustments for 2026:

- **FOCS 1:** Current fee of **\$10** will increase to **\$20**.
- **FOCS 2:** Current fee of **\$15** will increase to **\$25**.

In addition, we plan to introduce a \$10 download fee for the Softball Canada Coaching Guides, which provide comprehensive support materials for coaches at all stages of development. These guides are available for download on the Softball Canada website.

Looking ahead, we are also exploring the creation of new e-learning modules featuring updated *Competition – Development (Comp Dev)* content. These modules will serve two main purposes:

Revenue generation – expanding the range of paid educational offerings available through our online platform.

Course streamlining – reducing in-person classroom time by shifting select content to an online, self-paced format, thereby enhancing flexibility and accessibility for coaches.

MOTION #9 – Move to approve the increase in FOCS fees

***Moved by Dugger, seconded by
Andison, CARRIED***

7.2 MCD Meeting

Softball Canada will host the next Master Coach Developer (MCD) Meeting in Ottawa, Ontario, from January 23–25, 2026. The last in person meeting was in 2022.

This meeting will include participation from the Coaching Development Committee (CDC) to encourage collaboration and alignment across all levels of the Coaching Program. The Softball Canada CAC consultant will also be invited to take part in the meeting and provide input from a CAC perspective.

The agenda will include updates and discussion on:

- NCCP program updates (MED changes from CAC)
- Competition – Development (Comp Dev) revisions
- Competition – Introduction (Comp Intro) evaluations
- Foundations of Coaching Softball (FOCS) updates
- Long-term direction and planning for the Coaching Program

Attendance at the meeting is mandatory for MCDs as part of their role. While limited Zoom participation may be offered for select portions, in-person attendance will be strongly encouraged. P/T Coaching Staff will also be invited and encouraged to attend.

This meeting will provide an important opportunity for collaboration, program planning, and continued development of the NCCP pathway and related initiatives.

MOTION #10 – Move to accept the report on Coaching

***Moved by Dugger, seconded by
Stanton, CARRIED***

8. AGM Schedule

A drafted schedule has been included in the Board package for member review.

8.1 Motions

The deadline to submit SORs / Motions was September 15th with the option to revise until October 1st . All motions received will be reviewed at the meeting. More ideas/topics will stem from the Canadian Championship Committee meeting prior to the Board meeting.

MOTION #11 – Move to accept the AGM schedule & motions

***Moved by Penrod, seconded by
Teague, CARRIED***

9) Canadian Championship report

9.1 2025 Participation Numbers / Survey

	BC	AB	SK	MB	ON	QC	NB	NS	PEI	NL	NWT	YT	TOT	P/T
U15 W	5	2	3	3	4	1	1	1	1	0	0	0	21	9
U15 M	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	0	0	2	0	0	9	4
U17 W	6	3	4	2	4	1	1	1	1	1	0	0	24	10
U17 M	0	0	2	0	4	1	0	2	0	2	0	0	11	5
U19 W	5	3	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	13	4
U20 M	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	4
U23 M	0	0	1	0	4	1	0	0	0	1	0	0	7	4
WOMEN FP	0	1	4	0	1	1	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	4
MEN FP	1	0	1	0	5	0	0	1	0	2	0	0	10	5
MASTER	0	1	2	0	4	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	7	3
WOMEN SP	4	4	1	0	5	1	0	1	0	0	0	0	16	6
MEN SP	5	4	1	0	4	2	0	3	0	0	0	0	19	6
TOTAL	26	18	24	5	46	10	2	9	2	9	0	0	151	5.3

Participation

- We are down 9 teams total from 2024
- The number of teams per P/T has decreased compared to last year in more than half of the P/T's
- The U17 Women's event had participation from all provinces / territories and the highest number of teams
- The U19 Women's age category had significantly fewer teams this year than last, as many provinces chose to send their teams to the Canada Games instead. This outcome was anticipated and discussed at last year's meetings.
- Outside Canadians, Canada games had 11 teams for Women's, 9 teams for Men's.

Post Event Survey

Like previous years, a post-championship survey was created and shared on Softball Canada's social media platforms. A total of 189 responses were received from participants across multiple categories, including athletes, coaches, parents, and fans.

Link to full results:

https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-pGW9oBJRG6fw6oihK69sZA_3D_3D/

Participants

- All participating P/T's had at least one person complete the survey
 - Top represented provinces: Ontario (31%), Alberta (17%), Saskatchewan (12%), Québec (7%), Nova Scotia (10%)
- Largest participation
 - Slo-Pitch Championships (31%)
 - U17 Girls (14%).

Competition Experience

- Most teams played 8–10+ games.
- 87% were satisfied with the number of games.
- Over 85% preferred a championship of 5 days or more
- 89% were satisfied with how many teams advanced to playoff rounds

Event Operations & Facilities

- 71% agreed fields were appropriate; 66% found them well maintained.
- 52% agreed or somewhat agreed officiating met expectations.
- 75% agreed the volunteers were friendly and resourceful.
- Food & ticket pricing: Mixed feedback — 45% neutral to positive on food, 32% somewhat/ agree on ticket pricing.

Common Suggestions for Future Events

- Lower admission prices
- Enhance livestream and digital coverage
 - Live streaming was widely criticized for poor quality or limited availability
- Expand food/beverage options
 - Emphasis on healthier options

- Ensure medical/first aid presence on-site
- Increase promotion and media visibility before, during, and after the event

9.2 Canada Summer Games

St. John's 2025 Canada Games




The Women's and Men's Softball competitions at the Canada Games were a great success. The Caribou Memorial Softball Complex was in excellent condition, with City of St. John's staff and volunteers providing outstanding support to keep the event running smoothly.

Week 1 saw perfect weather for the Women's competition, while heavy rain early in Week 2 delayed the start of the Men's event until Wednesday. Thanks to efficient rescheduling, all 36 pool games and the playoff rounds were completed as planned.

Women's Softball

Women's Softball took place during Week 1, from Sunday, August 10th, to Friday, August 15th. The first few days presented some challenges, particularly with the Gamechanger application, as volunteers had limited experience using it. Additionally, the volunteers were using Android tablets to use Gamechanger, which differed from iOS devices and lacked certain features, causing some difficulties. Disruptions occurred during substitutions when umpires had difficulty communicating with scorekeepers over walkie-talkies, impacting game momentum. Despite these off-field issues, the competition on the field was amazing. BC finished first in Pool A and Ontario claimed first in Pool B, both undefeated. BC and ON faced each other twice in the playoffs, including the gold medal game, with BC winning both encounters to claim the gold.



Pool A – Preliminary Round Standings

Team	GP	W	L
 <u>BC</u>	4	4	0
 <u>AB</u>	4	3	1
 <u>SK</u>	4	2	2
 <u>PE</u>	4	1	3
 <u>NS</u>	4	0	4

Pool B - Preliminary Round Standings

Team	GP	W	L
 <u>ON</u>	5	5	0
 <u>MB</u>	5	3	2
 <u>NB</u>	5	3	2
 <u>QC</u>	5	3	2
 <u>NL</u>	5	1	4
 <u>YT</u>	5	0	5



Final standings

Team	Placing
 <u>BC</u>	Gold
 <u>ON</u>	Silver
 <u>AB</u>	Bronze
 <u>NB</u>	4
 <u>MB</u>	5
 <u>QC</u>	6
 <u>PE</u>	7
 <u>SK</u>	8
 <u>NS</u>	9
 <u>NL</u>	10
 <u>YT</u>	11

Men's Softball

Men's Softball took place during Week 2, from Wednesday, August 20th, to Sunday, August 24th. Operations ran more smoothly during this week as volunteers became more familiar with their roles. Rain made the schedule tough, forcing some teams to play three games in a day and others faced back-to-back games.

Preliminary Round Standings

Team	GP	W	L
 <u>QC</u>	8	8	0
 <u>ON</u>	8	7	1
 <u>NS</u>	8	5	3
 <u>SK</u>	8	5	3
 <u>NL</u>	8	4	4
 <u>NB</u>	8	2	6
 <u>AB</u>	8	2	6
 <u>BC</u>	8	2	6
 <u>MB</u>	8	1	7

Final Standings

Team	Placing
 <u>ON</u>	Gold
 <u>QC</u>	Silver
 <u>NS</u>	Bronze
 <u>SK</u>	4
 <u>NB</u>	5
 <u>NL</u>	6
 <u>AB</u>	7
 <u>BC</u>	8
 <u>MB</u>	9

9.3 General Comments

Successes

- SE Tourney was used by Supervisors again to post scores, standings and brackets on the Championship websites; it worked very well.
- New hosts did a fantastic job at U17 Women's in Warman and U15 Men's & Women's in Winkler/Morden.
- Very few injury/incident reports and protests. All Championships ran very smoothly.
- No eligibility complaints at all.
- U23 Men's held in conjunction with Men's was a success, creating more opportunities for teams and athletes to compete.

Challenges

- Major issue at U15 Women's with coaches/teams not understanding the format and tiebreaking procedure. Led to a lot of frustration, supervisors were not comfortable handling it.
- Streaming wasn't great in terms of quality and quantity. Despite offering free and easy to use tools, some hosts put very little effort. Discussion is needed to ensure more consistency.
- Allowed Surrey to stream through GameChanger; all others used SE Play. Many did not run on all diamonds, but host agreements still only required it on the main diamond.
- GameChanger was also a challenge for certain hosts in terms of getting enough volunteers, especially the bigger Championships.

Supervisors & Reports

- It was difficult filling supervisor assignments this year, especially with many Canadian Championships held the first weekend of August (long weekend) and with so many international events and the Canada Games on top of it.
- A Supervisor's Call was held again this year. Great information for new supervisors, it was repetitive for others.
- OPL process was done through Google Drive again. More last-minute changes were made than last year.
- Supervisor Reports have all been received and Host Reports are coming in

9.4 2026 Locations

Event	Location	Dates
U15 Women's	Fredericton, NB	July 29 - August 2
U15 Men's	Open	TBD
U17 Women's	Calgary, AB	July 29 - August 2
U17 Men's	Open	TBD
U19 Women's	Calgary, AB	August 5-9
U20 Men's	Carp, ON	August 11-16
U23 Men's	Saskatoon, SK	August 22-26
Women's	Blackfalds, AB	August 5-9
Men's and Master Men's	Saskatoon, SK	August 26-30,
Men's and Women's SP	Open	TBD

- We currently have three open categories: U15 Men's, U17 Men's & Men's & Women's Slo-Pitch
- Received inquiries from Surrey for U15 + U17 Men's, Prince Albert for U15 Men's, Nova Scotia for U17 Men's, and Ontario for Slo-Pitch but no bids yet.
- 2027 Bid period opened October 1st already received one bid (Slo-Pitch) and inquiries for a few others

9.5 CCSA National Championship

The 2025 Canadian Collegiate Softball Association (CCSA) National Championship will be hosted by the Calgary U of C Dinos and will be played October 9-12 in Calgary at Shouldice Athletic Park. Like last year, Softball Canada will provide medals, prizing, lineup cards, scorebooks, a deal on balls and technical support for this event. In return, the tournament organizers have recognized Softball Canada on their website (<https://ccsanationals2025.ca/>) and admission wristbands, and will also thank the organization at their opening banquet.

MOTION #12 – Move to accept the Canadian Championship Report

***Moved by Teague, seconded by
Dugger, CARRIED***

MOTION #13 – Move to accept the Canadian Championship final numbers & Canada Games report

***Moved by Teague, seconded by
Kosteroski, CARRIED***

10) MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM REPORT

10.1 MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Saskatoon International Four Nations Cup

- Prior to the World Cup in Prince Albert, Team Canada competed in a Four Nations Cup in Saskatoon from July 3-5 with Japan, New Zealand and the United States.
- The team earned a berth in the final after going 2-1 and defeated New Zealand 2-1 to win the event.

WBSC Men's World Cup

- A few days later, The Men's team opened the World Cup with a tough loss to New Zealand followed by an emotional come from behind 11-9 win over Venezuela to sit at 1-1 in the preliminary round. However, with the new World Cup format and tiebreaker, Canada was already eliminated from medal contention before their game was played due to being third in the TQB if tied with New Zealand and Venezuela and Argentina already being out at 0-2, which was a very difficult situation to swallow.
- The team rebounded in the placement round, defeating the Dominican Republic 2-1 and Australia 12-1 to finish 5th.

The World Games

The team made their way to China immediately following the ISC World Tournament to compete in the World Games from August 6-10. The team went 2-1 in the preliminary round to earn a spot in the semi-finals but lost 6-1 to Japan to set up a bronze medal matchup with Venezuela. Unfortunately, the weather did not cooperate and cancelled the medal games, with both Canada and Venezuela being awarded the bronze medal.

Coaching Staff and Athlete Retirements

Following The World Games, Head Coach John Stuart and Assistant Coach Les Howey both announced their retirements from the National Team program after an incredible 11-year run, along with several core athlete retirements from players who had been on the team since 2013.

Next Steps

- Softball Canada has asked a panel of Men's coaches from across the country to provide their input on up-and-coming athletes to include in the Athlete Pool. An updated Athlete Pool is expected to be announced in the following weeks.
- A WBSC Americas Pan American Championship is expected to be held in February 2026. If that event is held and we send a team, a new Head Coach and coaching staff will need to be selected.

10.2 U23 MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Pan American Championship

- The U23 Men's National Team travelled to La Pampa, Argentina from September 13-20 to compete in a Pan American Championship, with the top four countries (out of eight competing teams) earning a berth to the 2026 WBSC Men's World Cup.
- After an opening 4-0 loss to Mexico, Canada rebounded with three straight wins before dropping a 5-4 game to Dominican Republic but got back in the win column with a great win over the United States to secure a top 4 finish, followed by a 5-1 win against Venezuela to finish the preliminary round 5-2.
- Argentina and Mexico were tied at 5-1 and played each other in the final preliminary round game but was unable to complete that game after almost 9 innings due to rain. The rain cancelled the rest of the tournament, and WBSC Americas awarded the gold medal to both Mexico and Argentina, silver to Canada and bronze to Venezuela.

2026 WBSC Men's World Cup

- The U23 Men's National Team earned a birth for the 2026 WBSC Men's World Cup
- It is scheduled to take place in April 2026 in Columbia
- We will be losing 7 players as the birth cut off is now 2003

10.3 U18 MEN'S NATIONAL TEAM

Pan American Championship

- The U18 Men's National Team is currently in Bahia Blanca, Argentina competing in their own Pan American Championship. The top 4 of the 6 competing teams will qualify for the 2027 U18 Men's World Cup in Czechia.
- After their performance in Argentina, the team qualified for the 2027 U18 Men's World Cup in Czechia

MOTION #14 – Move to accept the Men's National Team report

***Moved by Teague, seconded by
Andison, CARRIED***

11) Hall of Fame – Team selection criteria

Hall of Fame Discussion

- There is currently a backlog of individuals associated with Softball Canada who are eligible for recognition.
- The Hall of Fame (HOF) remains a special and prestigious honour within the organization.
- The current HOF categories listed on the website include Coaches, Teams, Athletes, Umpires, Builders, Sportspeople, Life Members, and Trailblazers.
 - However, there are only nomination forms for 6 categories (there are no forms for Sportspeople & Life Members)
- It was noted that the number of categories may be excessive, and the structure should be reviewed and simplified.
- The group also discussed refocusing future AGMs to highlight HOF inductees and national teams, and to establish a schedule ensuring that all deserving historical teams (including those from the early 1900s) are recognized.

Life Member Discussion

There was significant discussion and general agreement on the value of introducing a Life Member recognition separate from the Hall of Fame.

- The Lasting Impression Program was identified as a related initiative worth exploring further, offering opportunities for both enhanced recognition and potential revenue generation.
- Bob will prepare draft wording and a proposed definition for the Life Member designation for review and discussion at the November meeting.

12) Officials

12.1 ODC & NDU Terms

The Officiating Development Committee (ODC) is seeking Board approval for its updated Operations Manual. The primary change pertains to the term lengths for committee members, which are now outlined as follows:

- Members of the Committee shall be appointed for a three-year term. In cases where a vacancy occurs with only one year remaining in the term, the appointed member will serve a one-year term.
- The NDU position may be re-appointed by the Board, without a call for applications at the end of the 1st three-year term.

MOTION #15 – To move in camera

***Moved by Zanolli, seconded by
Penrod, CARRIED***

MOTION #16 – To move out of camera

***Moved by Zanolli, seconded by
Andison, CARRIED***

12.2 ODC

The terms of three ODC members — Brent Chadwick, Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon, and Genevieve Gaudreau — expired as of October 1, 2025. In addition, we had one vacant position for a one-year term.

We received five applications for these positions, and Frankie, Robb and Brooke conducted interviews over the weekend to make the final selections. After completing the interviews, the following candidates were selected for re-appointment: Brent Chadwick, Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon, and Geneviève Gaudreau. We are also recommending the addition of a new member, Clinton Harvey.

The terms will be as followed:

Frankie Billingsley - term expires October 1, 2028 (3 year term)

Geneviève Gaudreau - term expires October 1, 2028 (3 year term)

Tonya Ribalkin-Zanon – term expires October 1, 2027 (2 year term)

Brent Chadwick - term expires October 1, 2027 (2 year term)

Clinton Harvey - term expires, October 1, 2026 (one-year term)

After the completion of these terms, all future term lengths will be 3 years.

12.3 New Level IV & V

The following umpires achieved a score of 80 or higher on the standard rubric evaluation. We are requesting Board approval for their appointment as Level IV Umpires:

Fast Pitch

- Brittany Lorteau - U19 W
- Bronwen Marchant - U19 W
- Kelsey Nadasdi - U19 W
- Jordanne Schroh - U19 W
- Steven Harnock - U19 W
- Donald Halle - U19 W
- David Dron - U19 W
- Aaron Gaudet - U20 M
- Tyler Warren - U20 M
- Kaleb Hutchison - U20 M
- Matt Hall - U20 M

There was a 70% success rate at the U19 Women's event and a 66% success rate at the U20 Men's event.

Slo-Pitch

- Shawn Brant
- BJ Doucette
- Kyle Freei

- Johanna Gillham
- Jeremy Hetherington
- Gary MacKinnon

Based on their performance at the 2025 Women's and Men's Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch Canadian Championships, we are pleased to recommend for Board approval the following for Level V Umpire appointments within Softball Canada's National Officials Certification Program (NOCP).

Fast Pitch

- Lucas Crosby (BC)
- Dave Herrington (ON)

Slo-Pitch

No candidates to put forward for Slo-Pitch Level V for this year.

MOTION #17 – To approve the newly appointed Level IV & V umpires

***Moved by Franklin, seconded by
Penrod, CARRIED***

12.4 Canadian Championships - Officials

Canadian Championships were once again a success this year.

A post-championship survey was distributed to all working umpires to gather feedback on both the overall event and their UICs and DUCs. We received 84 responses, with at least three responses in each age category. While three provinces did not send any working umpires to a Canadian Championship this year, every province that did participate had at least one official complete the survey.

Some concerns were raised in the survey, including challenges related to umpires arranging their own transportation to and from the airport, as well as a few issues regarding dressing room facilities.

12.5 International Assignments

Kris Hartley was selected to officiate at the U18 Men's Pan American Championship in Argentina in October with board approval obtained via email prior to his assignment.

Unfortunately, JR Simpson was unable to attend the USA Men's A/B Majors in Sioux Falls, South Dakota, due to an expired passport. Given the short notice, a decision was made not to send a replacement.

All other international assignments were successfully completed, and we received positive feedback from multiple officials regarding their experiences.

Congratulations to the following umpires who received the honor of officiating a medal game:

WBSC Events

- Men's - Scott McLaren (2nd base Gold Medal Game) Daryl Helmer (Bronze Medal Plate)
- World Games - Genevieve Gaudreau (1st base Men's; Gold Medal Plate Women's)
- U15 Women's - Justin Van Horn (2nd base Gold Medal Game)
- U18 Women's World Cup - Laura MacMillan (Gold Medal Plate)

Other Events

- European Women's - Sarah - Eve Jacob (Gold Medal Plate)
- European Co-Ed SP - Mark Gough (Gold Medal Plate)
- U23 Men's - Steve Gallagher (Rain Out - Would have been assigned the Gold Medal Plate if Canada was not playing)
- Border Battle and USA Men's A/B - successful with Gary Barnes, Lance Davidson and Jason Clark

12.6 WBSC Re-Certification

- Worked with the WBSC to create My Academy accounts for Level 5 Fast Pitch and Slo-Pitch officials.
- The platform is now part of the re-certification process, with umpires accessing their required exam through WBSC My Academy.
- The exam has not yet been released, as WBSC may be implementing changes.
- Once further instructions are received on how officials can access the exam, details will be communicated.
- Completion of the exam will be required for any officials wishing to be considered for international assignments in 2026.

12.7 Awards

Umpire of the Year

At the end of September we had not yet received any nominations for the Umpire of the Year award. An email reminder has been sent to all P/T Executive Directors and UICs, and the nomination deadline has been extended. We received 5 nominations.

After seeking email approval, Laura MacMillan was selected as Fast-Pitch Umpire of the Year and Jeff Butler was selected as Slo-Pitch Umpire of the Year. The Board extends its sincere congratulations to both recipients on this well-deserved recognition.

Ed Bitz

Following discussions with the ODC, it was decided to move the Ed Bitz Scholarship deadline to September 15 to align with the timelines for other awards and bursaries. We received a total of nine applications, and the ODC will be finalizing the selection of recipients.

After email approval from the Board, Ryan Untergasser and Jace Guilford were selected as the 2025 Ed Bitz Scholarship Winners.

All Other Awards

Approvals for the Claude Deschamps, Ethel Boyce, Ed Bitz, Male and Female Athletes of the Year, and Rose Hodgson Volunteer of the Year awards were approved by the Board via email.

Congratulations to the following award recipients:

Ethel Boyce Achievement Award: Elli Thompson (BC) & Joseph Weiler (ON)

Claude Deschamps Memorial Fund: Ailah Macdonald (PEI) & Tucker Sweet (NB)

Coach of the Year Award: Marc-André Villeneuve (QC)

Female Fast Pitch Athlete of the Year: Larissa Franklin (BC)

Male Fast Pitch Athlete of the Year: Blake Hunter (BC)

Female Slo-Pitch Athlete of the Year: Shannon Hilton (ON)

Male Slo-Pitch Athlete of the Year: Olivier Blier (QC)

Rose Hodgson Volunteer of the Year: Amanda Zanni (NS)

13) DEI REPORT

13.1 Alberta's fairness & safety in sport act

The Board reviewed Alberta's Fairness and Safety in Sport Act, which includes a provision banning the participation of transgender females in Provincial Sport Organization (PSO) programs for athletes over the age of 12.

- Eligibility is determined at the time of registration, requiring a form confirming that the athlete was born female.
- Enforcement of the policy is subject to a challenge and appeal process.
- Not confirmed, but based on a recent news article, the policy does not apply to athletes visiting the province for competition.
- The DEI Committee has requested a formal written statement from Softball Alberta confirming the accuracy and details of this policy.
- Obtaining this clarification will assist event supervisors and officials in appropriately addressing any concerns or complaints that may arise regarding the participation of transgender athletes.

13.2 Indigenous Logo Merch

Softball Canada with Home Run Sports launched a second Indigenous Merchandise offering in September, featuring an orange shirt for National Day for Truth and Reconciliation. Proceeds from this merchandise will go towards future DEI projects.

On September 30th, National Day for Truth and Reconciliation, our U18 Women's National team proudly purchased and wore these orange shirts for warm up prior to their game at the WBSC World Cup in Oklahoma City. The team also arranged a presentation by National Team Alum Carey-Leigh Vyse who shared her family's lived experience, deepening their understanding of the lasting impacts of residential schools in Canada.

13.3 Education Sessions

The DEI Committee is excited to be offering two upcoming DEI Education Sessions:

1. Embedding DEI Into Everyday Softball - This session will be offered at our 2025 AGM & Conference. This workshop will highlight what Softball Canada has accomplished to date, and provide P/Ts practical tools to integrate DEI into all aspects of their programs.

2. Anti-Racism in Sport - We are proud to partner with Anti-Racism in Sport to host an upcoming education session focused on advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion within our sport. This will be offered virtually November 27, 2025 and available to all Softball Canada staff and board members, as well as administrators and/or board members from our Provincial and Territorial Associations.

Our NDU Frankie Billingsley and ODC Member Tonya Ribalkin Zanon will be joining us on our October 19th call to discuss ideas on increasing Indigenous participation in officiating.

MOTION #18 – To accept the report on DEI

***Moved by Teague, seconded by
Franklin, CARRIED***

14) Facebook

- A new Softball Canada Facebook page has been created following the previous account ban
- New Page: **Softball Canada – CASA**
- All are encouraged to follow and share the page to help rebuild our following

15) Board Travel

- Board members who are booking their own flights for meetings and events are asked to do so in a timely manner to secure the best available rates.
- Booking early helps keep overall expenses low and supports the continued flexibility of allowing Board Members to arrange their own travel.

16) Budget

Done very well on our investments plus rainy day fund we have not needed to dip into to

Showing a loss, trying to find new ways to generate revenue

We are going to be over expensed this fiscal year

17) Other Business

Slo-Pitch

Canadian Championship Ball Distribution

The Board discussed the supply of balls for the Canadian Slo-Pitch Championships and the potential to modify the current distribution system.

Challenges with the current system include:

- A lack of volunteers to distribute balls
- Logistical issues at the venues
- Teams retaining balls instead of returning them

Proposed Pilot Program for Next Year:

- Each team would receive one dozen balls and be responsible for providing and retrieving their own balls during games
- Additional balls would be available for purchase if teams run out
- This approach has been successfully implemented at other championships
- The program would eliminate the need for volunteers to chase and collect balls

Concerns with the New Program:

- Potential use of SPN balls
- Overall product distribution
- Ensuring sufficient quantities
- Upfront costs for purchasing and shipping balls

The Board of Directors meeting will be held virtually in February 2026.

MOTION #19 – Motion to adjourn

***Moved by Penrod, seconded by
Franklin, CARRIED***

